

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION'S
HEALTH CARE REFORM PRINCIPLES**

- WHEREAS,** cities are on the frontlines of the healthcare crisis with high rates of uninsurance and rapidly escalating costs affecting residents, businesses, and workers; and
- WHEREAS,** Durham city government spends millions of dollars to provide health coverage to thousands of employees, dependents, and retirees, and rising health costs affect cities' ability to provide other city services; and
- WHEREAS,** thousands of Durham citizens lack health insurance and are less likely than their insured counterparts to receive recommended preventive and screening services, or medicines and treatments that meet the professional standard, and are more likely to die prematurely; and
- WHEREAS,** children in Durham who may lack health insurance coverage will have fewer well-child visits, worse access to specialists, fewer immunizations and more visits to the emergency room than children with health coverage; and
- WHEREAS,** millions more Americans are underinsured and at risk of financial ruin if they experience a major illness; and
- WHEREAS,** health care costs, and employment-based health insurance premiums in particular, have increased at rates much higher than inflation or wage growth for the last decade; and
- WHEREAS,** our current health care system focuses on treating disease rather than preventing it or promoting wellness; and
- WHEREAS,** there are large disparities in health status and health outcomes based on race, ethnicity, and physical ability, and many health care providers do not offer adequate service to patients with limited English proficiency or limited physical or mental ability; and
- WHEREAS,** chronic diseases pose the greatest challenge to our health care system and our health care delivery system is not well-organized to prevent and treat them; and
- WHEREAS,** public hospitals and clinics, community health centers, and other safety net providers provide care to millions of underserved individuals regardless of income, health coverage, or immigration status; and
- WHEREAS,** we have attempted to develop innovative programs to expand access to quality health care, make health services more affordable, we acknowledge that any comprehensive reform must be led by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, leaders in both political parties serving in Congress and the White House have called for enactment of comprehensive health care reform; and

WHEREAS, the President has pledged enactment of comprehensive reform this year, and substantial progress is being made in Congress to engage stakeholders and craft comprehensive reform; and

WHEREAS, Mayors and city council members, as representatives of their citizens, as employers, as health care providers and as partners to small and large businesses who struggle with health care costs, should have their voices heard in the crafting of comprehensive reform proposals, and all people should be willing to make some sacrifices to gain a comprehensive health care system for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Durham City Council supports and calls for the immediate enactment of the Administration's health care reform principles and agrees that comprehensive reform should reduce long-term growth of health care costs for businesses and government; protect families from bankruptcy or debt because of health care costs; guarantee choice of doctors and health plans; invest in prevention and wellness; improve patient safety and quality of care; assure affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans; maintain coverage when someone changes or loses a job; and end barriers to coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Durham City Council urges Congress to support public hospitals and other providers in the health care safety net so that those who fall through the cracks of expanded health coverage may still receive care; so that surge capacity is available in case of public health emergencies; and so that the cultural competencies achieved by providers serving diverse populations are preserved and enhanced in a reformed health care system.

APPROVED BY
CITY COUNCIL

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CITY CLERK

J. Ann Gray